

CONSUMER ALERT



JOSEPH R. BIDEN, III
ATTORNEY GENERAL

Consumer Protection Unit

New Castle County - (302) 577-8600

Kent County - (302) 739-7641

Sussex County - (302) 856-5353

Toll Free Consumer Hotline - (800) 220-5424

Consumer.Protection@State.DE.US

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LOTTERY SCAMS

The Delaware Department of Justice warns consumers about a wave of counterfeit-check lottery scams received through emails and letters. The scam is an attempt to convince Delawareans to wire thousands of dollars in order to claim what is described as a large lottery or sweepstakes prize. The Consumer Protection Unit has received a number of letters, calls and emails in recent months.

Follow these tips to avoid becoming a victim:

- Never wire money to someone you do not know. Don't ever wire funds from a check you've received to pay "taxes or fees" for a promised lottery or sweepstakes prize. You'll never see your money again. Reject ANY kind of scheme that sends you a check and asks you to wire money back to them.
- Refuse offers to buy international lottery tickets. Never believe a letter, phone call or Internet message from anyone who claims they can guarantee you a prize! Legitimate lotteries do not guarantee that you will win a prize and do not require people to join prize pools to play.
- Do not give out your social security number, credit card and bank account numbers to anyone
- Do not pay up-front fees for prize promotions if you have won, you shouldn't have to pay anything.
- Beware of callers requesting money be sent via a wire service or overnight delivery. This is a quick, easy and anonymous way for scam artists to get the money and run.